

## **DRAFT COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION**

**USE: Jogging**

**REFUGE NAME:** Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

**ESTABLISHING AUTHORITY:** Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. §715d)

**REFUGE PURPOSE:** "...for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds." (16 U.S.C. §715d)

### **MISSION OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM:**

To administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. (16 U.S.C. §3901(b))

### **DESCRIPTION OF USE**

**(a) What is the use?** Jogging activity consists of individuals running (jogging) along the edge of the Refuge road and beach. **Is the use a priority public use?** This use is not a priority public use .

**(b) Where would the use be conducted?** The use would be conducted along edge of the Refuge road and on the beach.

**(c) When would the use be conducted?** The use is primarily conducted during the spring to fall seasons, but does occur on warmer winter days. Activity seems to take place in the mornings or early evenings after work hours.

**(d) How would be use be conducted?** Generally visitors park in parking lot # 1 and jog down the Refuge road and back. Some jog into the Refuge from outside but must pass through the entrance gate and either show a pass or pay an entry fee. Also some jog on the Refuge beach. (see Parker River NWR Beach Use Compatibility Determination)

**(e) Why is this use being proposed?** Activity is a popular form of exercise and the Refuge road is a good place for joggers, since the paved portion of the road is in good condition and the traffic is relatively light with a slow (25mph) speed limit. Joggers may also enjoy viewing the salt marsh and ocean beach while they run. It is likely that some joggers observe wildlife while they are jogging on the Refuge. However such observation tends to be incidental to the primary activity of jogging.

**AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES:** Large parking lots for joggers to park in (lot one) with restrooms available seasonally and smooth road surface. There is no associated determined cost specifically attributed to this activity. This activity is therefore determined to be within the budget and staffing capabilities of the Refuge to manage.

**ANTICIPATED IMPACTS OF THE USE:** Activity may cause some incidental disturbance to wildlife, specifically birds. In areas where human activity is common, as is the case along the jogging route, birds tolerated closer approaches than in areas receiving less activity. Activity judged to be not a priority public use. However it is determined that this activity will not materially interfere with or detract from the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System or the purposes for which the Refuge was established.

**PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT:**

This Compatibility Determination is provided for public comment for a 14-day period, from December 15 to 29, 2004. Availability of the draft CD is advertised through a legal notice in the local newspaper, press release, flyers at the Refuge entrance gate and other public areas, and through the Refuge's web site.

**DETERMINATION** (check one below):

\_\_\_\_\_ Use is Not Compatible

  X   Use is Compatible with the Following Stipulations

**STIPULATIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY:**

- Maintain current levels of use.
- Monitor activity levels.
- Discourage large groups jogging together.
- Prohibit sanctioned runs or races to take place on the Refuge.
- Jogging not allowed on boardwalks or trails.

**REFERENCES:**

Parker River NWR Beach Use Compatibility Determination.

Klien, M.L. 1993. *Waterbird behavioral responses to human disturbances*. Wildlife Society Bulletin. 21:31-39

Signature – Refuge Manager: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature and Date)

Concurrence – Regional Chief: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature and Date)

Mandatory 10-year Reevaluation Date: \_\_\_\_\_Dec. 31, 2009\_\_\_\_\_